

We claim:

1. An optical effects device, comprising:

a transparent optical member having a shape which determines optical properties of the transparent member;

a super thin lighting element;

5 means for attaching the super thin lighting element to the transparent member;

means for fixing the transparent optical member relative to a main object.

2. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the super thin
10 lighting element is an electroluminescent lighting element, and further comprising electrical circuitry for supplying a trigger signal to the lighting element.

3. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lighting element is a photoluminescent element.

15 4. A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a stuffing material which encloses and protects the lighting element, said stuffing material being selected from the group consisting of a foam material and a same material as a material of the transparent optical member.

20 5. A device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the lighting element is an electro-luminescent element, and wherein

control circuitry for the lighting element is placed inside said stuffing, with access to a battery and switch.

25 6. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transparent optical member is made of a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl chloride, ABS, polyethylene, polypropylene, silicone, rubber, epoxy, PC, and wherein said member includes at least one transparent area.

30 7. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said optical properties are a function of different thicknesses of the transparent member.

35 8. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said design means is a pattern selected from the group consisting of a silk-screened pattern, a stencil, a cover film, and arrangement of particles in the lighting element in order to enhance the attractiveness of the lighting arrangement both in darkness and light.

40 9. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lighting element includes both electro-luminescent and photoluminescent elements to provide back-up lighting in case power to the electro-luminescent lighting fails.

10. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fixing
means comprises means for fixing the transparent optical
45 device securely to a surface of the main object.

11. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lighting
element is affixed to an inside surface of the transparent
optical member, and wherein the transparent optical member
is in the form of a sheet, cylinder, tubing, or other
50 shape.

12. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lighting
elements consist of different diameter particles between
sheets.

13. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fixing
55 means is selected from the group consisting of glue,
Velcro™, stitching, screws, heat welding, ultra-sonic
welding, and melting by a solvent.

14. A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising
additional lighting elements facing in a plurality of
60 different directions.

15. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the main
object is situated within the transparent optical member.

16. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the main
object is selected from the group consisting of a clock, a

65 gearshift handle, a telephone, a thermometer, and a
combined clock and thermometer.

17. A device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the lighting
element serves as a backlight for the whole main object.

70 18. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lighting
element is an electro-luminescent lighting element and the
optical effects device includes a self-contained housing
for a battery, switch, and circuitry for triggering the
electro-luminescent element.

75 19. A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the circuitry
is enclosed and access is available only to the switch and
battery so as to protect the user from shock hazard.

20. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said optical
effects device encloses a plurality of main objects.

80 21. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said main
object has attached thereto a plurality of said optical
effects devices, and wherein said optical effects devices
share a single control circuit positioned on the main
object.

85 22. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said lighting
element includes an electro-luminescent element, and a
power pack for said electro-luminescent element is

positioned on the main object outside of the optical effects device.